



## Homework at Mareeba School

It is a requirement for all Queensland State Schools to develop a school homework policy in consultation with the school community.

At Mareeba State School we believe that homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, pattern behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the classroom and involve family members in their learning. The setting of homework takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and community and cultural pursuits.

At Mareeba State School, homework **must** enhance our students' learning and therefore **must be**:

- **purposeful and relevant to the student's needs**
- **appropriate to the phase of learning (early, middle and senior)**
- **appropriate to the capability of the student**
- **develop the student's independence as a learner**
- **varied, challenging and clearly related to class work**
- **allow for student commitment to recreational, employment, family and cultural activities.**

### **Using varied and challenging homework appropriate to students' learning needs**

Homework **must** engage students in independent learning to complement work undertaken in class through:

- **revision and critical reflection to consolidate learning (practising for mastery)**
- **applying knowledge and skills in new contexts (a topic of interest, an authentic local issue)**
- **pursuing knowledge individually and imaginatively (investigating, researching, writing, designing, making)**
- **preparing for forthcoming classroom learning (collecting relevant materials, items, information).**

The Department of Education and Training "Policy Statement: Homework" also states that students should not be disadvantaged by the lack of access to resources such as computers and the internet outside school.

## **Responsibilities**

### **Principal will:**

- *develop a school homework policy, in consultation with their school community, particularly the Parents and Citizens' Association & School Council*
- *distribute the school homework policy to staff, students, and parents and caregivers, particularly at the time of student enrolment*
- *ensure the homework policy is effectively implemented throughout the school*
- *include an up-to-date school homework policy as part of their annual school reporting.*

### **Teachers:**

#### **Teachers will help students establish a routine of regular, independent study by:**

- *ensuring our school's homework policy is implemented*
- *setting homework on a regular basis*
- *clearly communicating the purpose, benefits and expectations of all homework*
- *checking homework regularly and provide timely and useful feedback*
- *using homework that is varied, challenging and directly related to class work and appropriate to students' learning needs*
- *explicitly teaching strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and providing opportunities to practise these strategies through homework*
- *giving consideration to other academic and personal development activities (school based or other) that students could be engaged in when setting homework*
- *discussing with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggesting strategies to assist with their homework.*

### **Students:**

#### **Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:**

- *being aware of the our school's homework policy*
- *discussing with their parents or caregivers homework expectations*
- *accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames*
- *following up on comments made by teachers*
- *seeking assistance when difficulties arise*
- *organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment.*

### **Parents & Carers:**

#### **Parents and caregivers can help their children by:**

- *reading to them, talking with them and involving them in tasks at home including shopping, playing games and physical activity*
- *helping them to complete tasks by discussing key questions or directing them to resources*
- *encouraging them to organise their time and take responsibility for their learning*
- *encouraging them to read and to take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events*
- *helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games, playing sport and engaging in other recreational activities*
- *contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to the homework.*

### **Considering students' other commitments when setting homework**

In determining homework, it is important to acknowledge that students may be engaging in many different activities outside of school. These include a range of physical activities and sports, recreational and cultural pursuits. Some students have responsibilities as caregivers.

### **Homework appropriate to particular phases of learning**

The following is our guide in determining the amount of set homework that students are expected to undertake. It is of course open to you, as a parent/carer, to consult with your child's teacher about additional materials or practice exercises with which you can assist your child with, at home.

In the Mareeba State School's **Early Phase of Learning (Prep to Year 3)** activities at home or in play are designed to assist the children at Mareeba State School to develop literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills.

### **At Mareeba State School, homework tasks will include:**

- **daily reading to, with, and by parents/carers or other family members**
- **linking concepts with familiar activities such as shopping, preparation of food, local environment and family outings**
- **conversations about what is happening at school**
- **preparation for oral presentations**
- **opportunities to write for meaningful purposes.**

### **Implementing the school homework policy**

In **Years Prep, 1, 2 and 3**, set homework could be up to **but not more than 1 hour per week**.

In the Middle Phase (**Year 4 to Year 6**) some homework can be completed daily or over a weekly or fortnightly period and may:

- **include daily independent reading**
- **be coordinated across different subject areas**
- **include extension of class work, projects and research.**

Homework in **Year 4 and Year 5** will be up to but **not more than 2-3 hours per week**.

Homework in **Year 6** will be up to but **not more than 3-4 hours per week**.

Teachers are encouraged to reward and praise students who complete homework regularly and to a high standard. Punishment and/or detention for non-completion of homework tasks are not endorsed at Mareeba State School.